

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 179

July 16, 1997, 2:35 pm
Page S-7544 Temp. Record

ENERGY-WATER APPROPRIATIONS/Final Passage

SUBJECT: Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1998 . . . S. 1004. Final passage, as amended.

ACTION: BILL PASSED, 99-0

SYNOPSIS: As passed, S. 1004, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1998, will provide \$21.210 billion in new budget authority to the Department of Defense's Civil Corps of Engineers, to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, to the relevant offices within the Department of Energy, and to related independent agencies and commissions. Appropriations will be as follows:

- Civil Corps of Engineers, \$3.663 billion (\$292.1 million more than requested, primarily for water projects, and \$444.7 million less than provided last year);
- Department of the Interior, \$870.6 million, including \$6 million for the Animas La Plata Project (see vote No. 177 for related debate);
- Department of Energy, \$16.391 billion (\$2.042 billion less than requested, and \$633.3 million more than provided last year); \$11.785 billion of that amount will be for Atomic Energy Defense Activities, including: \$5.312 billion for defense environmental restoration and waste management; \$4.302 billion for Weapons Activities (funding will primarily be for maintaining the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile; increased funding will be provided to develop computer testing capabilities to replace nuclear detonation testing); and \$343.0 million for a defense environmental management privatization initiative (the Administration requested \$1.006 billion); Energy Department research accounts will be consolidated into a single account; the Department of Energy's high energy physics, nuclear physics, biological and environmental research, basic energy sciences, and other energy research programs will be placed in a single account; and
- Independent agencies, \$285.7 million, including \$160 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission and \$86 million for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(See other side)

YEAS (99)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (54 or 100%)		Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Akaka	Johnson			Burns- ^{2AY}	
Allard	Hutchison	Baucus	Kennedy				
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Biden	Kerrey				
Bennett	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerry				
Bond	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kohl				
Brownback	Kyl	Breaux	Landrieu				
Campbell	Lott	Bryan	Lautenberg				
Chafee	Lugar	Bumpers	Leahy				
Coats	Mack	Byrd	Levin				
Cochran	McCain	Cleland	Lieberman				
Collins	McConnell	Conrad	Mikulski				
Coverdell	Murkowski	Daschle	Moseley-Braun				
Craig	Nickles	Dodd	Moynihan				
D'Amato	Roberts	Dorgan	Murray				
DeWine	Roth	Durbin	Reed				
Domenici	Santorum	Feingold	Reid				
Enzi	Sessions	Feinstein	Robb				
Faircloth	Shelby	Ford	Rockefeller				
Frist	Smith, Bob	Glenn	Sarbanes				
Gorton	Smith, Gordon	Graham	Torricelli				
Gramm	Snowe	Harkin	Wellstone				
Grams	Specter	Hollings	Wyden				
Grassley	Stevens	Inouye					
Gregg	Thomas						
Hagel	Thompson						
Hatch	Thurmond						
Helms	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

Those favoring final passage contended:

More than half of the money in this bill will be spent on defense purposes. Half of that amount will be used to ensure the safety and reliability of the United States nuclear weapons stockpile; the other half of that amount will be used to clean up defense nuclear waste sites. Most of the remainder will be spent on civilian Energy Department research and environmental programs. Approximately \$4.5 billion will be spent on Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation projects. Increased funding will be provided for computer testing to replace nuclear testing. Initial efforts in this area have been very promising--in one test, 149 of 150 optical sensors provided usable data in a subcritical test that computers were then able to use to determine what would have happened had the test been allowed to reach critical mass. In one area, the privatization of nuclear waste cleanup, the Administration's funding request was sharply reduced due to concerns that savings from this new effort have yet to be proven. The only site that has been privatized to date has been having significant cost problems. Another key feature of this bill that should be highlighted is that it increases the funding for water projects above the Administration's request. Members frequently request funding for water projects. Though such projects are often justifiably derided as porkbarrel spending, they are also frequently needed. For instance, this bill will provide \$289 million to maintain flood controls on the Mississippi River; according to the Army Corps of Engineers, the existing levee system on the Mississippi River averted \$8 billion in damages in the 1993 flood alone. On balance, we are confident that most Members strongly approve of the provisions of this bill. We urge them to vote in favor of final passage.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to final passage.